

This application is a division of U.S. Serial No. 09/772,123 filed 1/29/01, now issued as U.S. Patent No. \_\_\_\_\_.--.

On page 3, line 10, replace the "supra." with --supra,--.

On page 4, line 1, indent the line to indicate a new paragraph starts.

On page 4, line 13, delete the "the" in the phrase "the their".

On page 5, lines 14-20, please delete them and replace with the following:

-- The invention is directed to an improvement in automated tissue staining system having evaporation inhibitor liquid covering the polynucleotide hybridization buffer-covered tissue on a slide, wherein the improvement comprises a polynucleotide hybridization buffer for *in situ* hybridization comprising a low molecular weight dextran sulfate having a molecular weight range from about 8,000 to about 16,000.--

Page 7, line 17, delete the word "at".

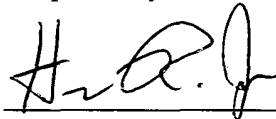
Page 13, line 2, replace "tot he" with --to the--.

#### Comments

The parent case Ser. No. 09/772,123 was subject to a Restriction Requirement which divided the application into Group I (claims 1-8), and Group II (claims 9-18). In the parent application claims 1-8 were elected for further prosecution, and the claims of Group II were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner and subsequently cancelled without prejudice by Applicant. The filing of a division application accompanies this Preliminary Amendment, and is filed prior to the termination of proceedings or abandonment of the parent case from which this claims priority.

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Respectfully submitted,



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